



Ninety-Eighth Legislature - First Session - 2003
Committee Statement
LB 269

Hearing Date: February 28, 2003

Committee On: Judiciary

Introducer(s): (Tyson, Connealy)

Title: Adopt an educational loan forgiveness program for lawyers who provide public legal services

Roll Call Vote – Final Committee Action:

Advanced to General File

X Advanced to General File with Amendments

Indefinitely Postponed

Vote Results:

| | | |
|---|-----|--|
| 7 | Yes | Senators Brashear, Foley, Mines, Mossey, Pedersen, Quandahl, Tyson |
|---|-----|--|

No

Present, not voting

| | | |
|---|--------|------------------|
| 1 | Absent | Senator Chambers |
|---|--------|------------------|

Proponents:

Senator Gene Tyson

Doug German

Michael McGill

Jim Rembolt

Patrick Borchers

Glenda Pierce

Jim Mowbray

Jim Gordon

Danielle Nantkes

James Cavanaugh

John Jorgensen

Wayne Bena

Jessica Kerkhofs

Cecilia Olivarez-Huerta

Robert Sanford

Neligh Smith

Representing:

Introducer

Nebraska Legal Services

Nebraska Legal Services

Nebraska State Bar Association

Creighton Law School

University of Nebraska College of Law

Nebraska Commission on Public Advocacy

Nebraska Legal Services

Equal Justice Society, UNL College of Law

Self

Self

American Bar Association – Law Student
Division

Nebraska Legal Services

Mexican American Commission

Nebraska Appleseed Center

self

Opponents:

Paul Rosberg

Representing:

self

Neutral:

Representing:

Summary of purpose and/or changes:

Legislative Bill 269 creates a program for the repayment of education debt of attorneys who perform public legal services.

Specifically, the bill creates the Legal Education for Public Service Loan Repayment Board (Board). The Board is charged with developing the rules to govern the loan repayment program. The Board is to recommend such rules to the Commission on Public Advocacy (Commission) which shall administer the program.

The Board shall be comprised of the director of Nebraska Legal Services, the deans of Creighton and University of Nebraska Lincoln law schools, a student from each school, a member of the Nebraska County Attorneys Association, a member of the Nebraska Criminal Defense Lawyers Association, a member of the Nebraska Bar Association and the chief counsel of the Commission.

The Commission may solicit and receive donations from various sources to secure funding for the loan forgiveness program. The bill states that it is the intent of the Legislature to appropriate \$300,000 per fiscal year for the program and an additional \$100,000 for matching private donations.

The rules shall include that recipients shall be full-time, salaried attorneys who work for a governmental unit or tax-exempt charitable organization. Under the program proposed by the bill, eligible participants would initially receive up to six thousand dollars annually in repayment of their loans.

Explanation of amendments, if any:

The committee amendment (AM 0646) deletes the provision of the bill that provided for the appropriation of General Funds for the loan repayment program.

Senator Kermit A. Brashear, Chairperson